



Nickers & News

GET READY FOR FALL SESSION



Free Rein's 2018 Fall Session begins September 10th. We're expecting more than sixty students.

Whoa Nelly! If you're interested in registering a rider or receiving more info please contact Jennifer Rouse at 828 883-3375 or email at prorams@freereincenter.com.

Our instructors will set up meetings with parents from Sept 4th through 8th, to develop individual plans and set goals for riders.

Lessons are offered Monday through Saturday. Hours may vary. The cost is \$50 a lesson with scholarship opportunities available. No rider is ever turned away. Lessons last 50 minutes.

Upcoming Events

AUG 25 9am till noon	Volunteer Info & Orientation Session
SEPT 10	Fall Classes Start (they end on NOV 10th)
OCT 13	Mane Event Fall Gala (plan now to attend !!)
OCT 26	Haunted Barn
DEC TBA	Holiday Barn

Notes from the Hayloft...

It's hard to believe we are already in mid-summer. Time for a quick update. Volunteers gave of their time at the White Squirrel and 4th of July Festivals. Our booth raises awareness of Free Rein, helps us make new friends and enlist the help of new volunteers and financial supporters. As in past years, Summer lessons are held at Sugarbrush on See Off Mountain. We'll be moving the Fall Session back down to Rockbrook's newly rebuilt covered arena which offers opportunities to reach new students and better serve our existing students. The arena has lights which means we can now reach students who haven't been able to attend lessons during the day!

Looking forward to our annual Fundraiser, The Mane Event. This year's Gala will be held on October 13th in the newly remodeled Connestee Falls clubhouse. The board and volunteers are out gathering items for the live and silent auctions. It's a terrific evening with GREAT food. Above that you will be supporting Free Rein and all those we serve. Tickets are available now on our website.

Peace, y'all come,
Bill Buchler (Board Chair)



Please join us in welcoming Lelia Duncan as Free Rein's Interim Executive Director. Her focus will be on developing a comprehensive strategy for fundraising and expanding public awareness of our organization.

Lelia is a dynamic non-profit leader and brings a wealth of knowledge with over twenty-five years of experience.

Please enjoy this newsletter - packed with fun and interesting information about **Horses Helping Humans Heal**

Stronger Than Ever

One of 2017 highlights was using Rockbrook Camp's new, world class equestrian facility. The 90' x 180' covered arena was more than we could have ever dreamed of. On December 9th we were truly blessed that no people or horses were in the arena at 3:00 am when the roof collapsed under the weight of an unusually heavy snowfall. When the forensic engineers completed with their analysis, they found that the collapse was not caused by the design or engineering of the structure - or the local construction crew. The root cause of the failure was improper welding in the metal truss system by the manufacturer. The snow was simply more than the improper welds could support.



Rockbrook's crews dug in (literally) and the magnificent structure was rebuilt 67% stronger than the previous structure and finished in time for summer camp. The original structure was engineered to meet local building codes for 15 lbs. per sq. ft. (PSF) while the new structure is engineered to 25 lbs PSF. The new posts, truss-post connectors, and trusses are more robust to provide the higher strength ratings. In addition, the truss manufacturer hired an independent engineering firm to review their fabrication and testing of the new trusses.



As this unfortunate event passes into Free Rein Center's rich history, we look forward to moving forward with some of the plans for program expansion that the covered arena will make possible.

We'd also like to thank Clark and Mary Lou Hickock at Appalachian Golf Cars for donating the use of a golf cart to help us get around during the construction... again.



Volunteer Spotlight Helen Spohrer

Helen first learned about Free Rein through a Next Door posting and began volunteering in September of 2017. She shared, "Our family has loved Brevard for over 30 years. Free Rein is the perfect opportunity to give back and make a difference in a direct and meaningful way."

When asked what's the most rewarding part of her volunteer experience she says, "The breakthrough moments with the rider. Sometimes the breakthrough is a glimmer and at other times it is a significant step forward. Both are equally rewarding for everyone."

Helen added, "Watching the progress of the riders. There is a very strong sense of shared purpose among the instructors, horse leaders and side walkers. We are a team with one goal and I believe that accounts for the success of the program." We grateful for volunteers like Helen. In closing she encourages others, "There is a place for you at Free Rein. Regardless of what role you choose, you are participating in a program that improves lives-including yours!"



In Loving Memory of Peg Hall



From Free Rein Center's inception in 2000 until her death on May 15, 2018, Peg Hall was a steadfast supporter and major part of Free Rein. She was one of the primary forces behind Free Rein's beginnings and our growth and sustainability to the present time. Like you, we will miss Peg a great deal.

Peg and her life partner, Gerry Azzata were involved in founding Free Rein Center in 2000. Peg earned her NARHA (later PATH) instructor certification in 2006 and became one of the most enthusiastic, popular and talented teacher for over a decade. Volunteers, other instructors, and students over the years recall and cherish Peg's zest and energy as a teacher, her empathy for her students, and her passion for horses and those we serve.

Peg is pictured here with Carter Heyward. If you would like to honor Peg, a Peg Hall Fund has been set up for that purpose.

Meet One of our Riders

Lilli (age 14) started riding at Free Rein Center in 2015. Her family moved here from Spartanburg, SC, where they participated in HALTER (another therapeutic riding program). They recommended the Free Rein program to her family.

Lilli has autism, cerebral palsy, is non-verbal, has high anxiety, and has no other extra-curricular activities. Through the Free Rein program Lilli has gained self-confidence and is very proud of her accomplishments. Riding helps with balance and core strength while allowing her opportunities to connect with the volunteers. Her favorite horse is Cassie.

Her mother Jennie, has witnessed amazing improvements. She reports, "Lilli has increased her ability to stay balanced and her posture has improved dramatically. She's learned how to lean over and get in a two-point position, tap the horse and even spontaneously said, "whoa" even though she is non-verbal. She recently attempted to pick up the reins, which is a huge step for her. The connections with the volunteers, and the love shown to Lilli every time she rides have been priceless to us. I will never get over how much the volunteers do for my daughter."

Lilli VanDyke



Volunteer Training



If you're looking for an organization where you can make a difference in someone's life, then look no further.

There are many ways to engage, whether it's walking with a rider, working in the barn, taking photos, gathering stories, assisting with events, or helping out in the office.

Make plans to attend our Volunteer Training Program on Saturday, August 25th from 9am until noon at the Rockbrook Camp Riding Arena.



Meet One Of Our Horses

Ytzen, registered as Ytzen ut de Mieden, Ytzen was born in Holland in March of 1999.

He is a 19 year old Friesian and he moved to Virginia in 2002. Volunteers and instructors claim he acts like a 4 year old, but when a child gets aboard, he's all gentle business.

Ytzen is a big boy, standing 16.3 hands tall (about 65").

We understand at one point he was trained by a cowboy which is where he gets his good ground manners.

Ytzen is a happy guy and loves riding with our students... or just being around people in the barn!



Become a Stable Supporter

Free Rein Center is a qualified 501(c)(3) public charity.
Gifts and donations are tax deductible to the extent
allowed by current tax law.



We invite you to join our growing herd of Stable Supporters. This is a group of people who are supporting Free Rein Center with a monthly gift.

Your monthly gift of as little as \$10 will provide a sustainable foundation that directly supports our programs and the many people they serve.

We'll have some special treats for this herd of special folks, so please do join up.

Join up or look for more details at
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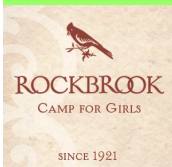
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Sponsor's Corner

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We are proud to recognize Rockbrook Camp as our Diamond Host Sponsor. Thanks for being a great partner and offering us the use of such a fine facility.

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